THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) While the Central Govt. have not been in favour of further re-organisation of Assam, the State Govt. have been advised to initiate a meaningful dialogue with representatives bodies of the Plains Tribals with a view to removing genuine grievances of the tribals and to look into developmental needs of the area with a sense of urgency. The State Govt. have held discussions with a number of Plains Tribals Organisations including one group of ABSU. At the invitation of the State Govt. a Central Observer was also present in the series of talks starting from 14th June, 1989.

Teesta Multipurpose Project

345. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the construction of the Teesta Multipurpose Project has considerably slowed down due to the lack of financial resources;

(b) what is Centre's share of finance in this project;

(c) whether West Bengal Government has requested the Central Government to bear fifty per cent cost of the project; and

(d) if so, what is Central Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB) : (a) and (b) Central assistance is given to the States in the form of block loans/grants and is not tied to any sector of development or any individual project. However, special Central assistance of Rs. 5 crores in 1983-84 and advance plan assistance of Rs. 25 crores in 1986-87 and 1987-88 was provided to the Teesta Barrage Project.

(c) and (d) The Chief Minister of West Bengal has recently written for a special assistance of Rs. 96 crores for 1989-90 and to share the balance cost of the project from the beginning of Eighth Plan on 50 : 50 ratio. The matter is under examination.

Haldia Petro-chemical Project

346. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Minister of West Bengal met him in June last demanding early clearance of the Haldia Petrochemical project;

(b) if so, what has been the outcome of the discussion; and

(c) by when it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : (a) to (c) Against background of the discussion held with Chief Minister of West Bengal in June, 1989, certain aspects relating to the project have to be further looked into.

Projects from Andhra Pradesh pending clearance

347. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) how many project proposals from Andhra Pradesh Government have been cleared during the years 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90;

(b) how many projects from Andhra Pradesh are pending at present for clearance;

(c) what are the reasons for the delay in their clearance; and

(d) whether this will lead to cost escalation of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : (a) Two.

(b) to (d) While two major projects have not been cleared due to non-resolution of inter-State issues, on one major project, the State Government has to obtain clearance from environment and forest angle. In respect of eight medium irrigation project, five have been received during January-March, 1989, whereas on the three medium projects the State Government has to comply with the observations of Central appraising agencies.

News item captioned "Bank's deposit growth Slack"

348. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Economic Times of 26th June, 1989 titled "Bank's deposit growth slack"; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that during the current financial year 1989-90 (from March 24, 1989 to June 2, 1989), the aggregate deposits of banks rose by 3.7 per cent as against 2.5 per cent during the corresponding period of 1988-89.

Policy of limited operation by JCI

349. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Jute Corporation of India has taken a policy of limiting its operations; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) and (b) Procurement policy of Jute Corporation of India under Price Support Operation is open-ended and whatever quantity is offered by growers to JCI at Minimum Support price shall be purchased. However, purchases above Minimum Support price level can only be made against indents backed by guaranteed payment arrangements.

Moratorium by RBI

350. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that a bank in private sector has been put under morratorium by the Reserve Bank of India recently; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b) On the recommendations of the Reserve Bank of India, the Central Government has issued an order of moratorium with effect from the close of business on the 10th June, 1989 and upto and inclusive of 10th October, 1989 in respect of the United Industrial Bank Ltd., Calcutta, under the provisions of section 45 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.